Sale of medicines under different brand names

†2523. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines of same formulations are being sold in the market in abundance, under different brand names; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is 50 to 100 per cent difference in the rates of medicines of such brands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) In the Pharmaceutical market, there are many brands of the same composition manufactured by different companies.

For a Scheduled formulation, a manufacturer is required to follow the price fixed by the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc.

Appellate tribunal on Drugs Pricing

2524. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Appellate Tribunal on Drug Pricing, on the lines of Labour, Excise and Income tax Tribunals;

(b) whether operation of the existing Drug Price Control Order by NPPA is being challenged in courts by the industry; and

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to constitute the Tribunal because of abuse of the judicial system, by the drug industry, in circumventing the executive orders?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some price notifications/orders relating to Scheduled bulk drugs and formulations and some show cause notices issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, have been challenged in courts.

(c) No, Sir.

Decline in use of urea

†2525. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to failure of monsoons, the use of urea declined during the period from 1st April to 15th July this year, as compared to the corresponding period during the last year; and

(b) if so, in which States the use of urea has declined and the percentage of decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement indicating the State-wise sales of urea from 1st April to 15th July 2002 this year as compared with the sales in the corresponding penod last year alongwith the percentage variation is annexed (*See* below). The states in which consumption has declined this year are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Goa.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.